

Good Morning, my name is Arlene Chun. I work for the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. I am providing comments on behalf of the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed Planning Area, or USMW. The USMW members also include the Rancho California Water District, County of Riverside and the Elsinore Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District.

The Santa Margarita Watershed is a 700+ square mile watershed that encompasses portions of southwestern Riverside and northwestern San Diego Counties. The USMW, which represents the Riverside County portion of the watershed, was created after the agencies and stakeholders of the USMW were informed by the San Diego County Water Authority that they would be excluded from the regional water planning efforts of San Diego County Planning Group.

As a result of being excluded from the San Diego Planning Group efforts, the USMW Planning Group was left with no option but to embark on an ambitious and committed effort to prepare an IRWM for the unplanned portion of the Santa Margarita Watershed. The completed and adopted IRWM was submitted for consideration for the Proposition 50 Round 2 implementation grants.

Although pleased that the USMW plan was approved, the USMW Planning Group feels that a lack of State funding will negatively impact the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed region's ability to quickly implement sound water supply, water quality, flood management, and environmental enhancement projects. These concerns are magnified because the Upper and Lower Santa Margarita Watershed areas are integrally linked, particularly with regard to water supply issues, and the success or failure of planning efforts in the Upper Watershed has a dramatic impact on the success of planning efforts in the Lower Watershed.

Accordingly, the stakeholders and agencies of the USMW Planning Group will continue their diligent efforts to integrate the regional planning efforts for the Santa Margarita Watershed and meet the demands of this fast growing area, while protecting the unique and delicate environmental, riparian, and watershed resources of the region. In furthering these planning efforts, the USMW planning group looks forward to working closely with the California Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board.